7th April 1953]

Cultivable waste land in South Kanara.

* 362 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of cultivable waste land in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any scheme to bring them under cultivation?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

"(*a*) 213,284 acres in fasli 1361.

"(*b*) Yes, Sir; by assigning cultivable waste land to any landless and poor person likely to take to direct cultivation."

SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—"Have the Government received any recommendation from the District Food Production Committee, South Kanara, to the effect that long-term leases of waste lands may be granted for the purpose of food production?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

"I am not aware of any such recommendation so far."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—"Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that there is a conflict between the provision in the Preservation of Private Forests Act which defines a forest as including lands on which even shrubs grow and this policy of leasing waste lands which requires clearance of lands?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not see how this supplementary question arises out of the main question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—"The supplementary question is directly connected with the main question."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"We shall resolve the conflict as far as possible."

Gruel centres for handloom weavers.

* 363 *Q.*—Sri D. K. RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state— 9-10 a.m.

(*a*) the conditions required for opening of gruel centres in mufassal districts; and

(*b*) whether gruel centres were opened exclusively for the benefit of handloom weavers in urban areas only?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

"(*a*) Gruel centres are generally opened in areas where acute distress prevails and relief is necessary.

"(*b*) Yes; special gruel centres have been opened in all big *urban weaving* centres for the relief of old and infirm weavers and their children."

SRI D. K. RAJU:—"Sir, was there any representation from the Collector of the district that not only the handloom weavers but also other suffering people must be given gruel?"

[7th April 1953

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"The only reference from the Collector as far as I know is that he wants to extend the centres till June."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—"Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of gruel centres in handloom weaver areas and non-handloom weaver areas?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"The total number is 151, and this number is distributed district-war in about 12 or 14 districts. If the hon. Member wants to know the exact details, he may put a separate question."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—"Are the Government aware of the damage this form of relief is doing to the public by loss of their self-respect, due to the inevitability of the people having to depend upon this form of relief as there is no means of employment?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"I do not know what damage the hon. Member means. Does he mean damage to the digestive organs?"

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH:—"Sir, what is the definition of an urban area and a rural area?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Because the weavers are concentrated in urban areas, it is easy to give relief in urban areas."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, arising out of the answer given to the supplementary question, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Collector of Ramanathapuram made a representation to the Government to open gruel centres in the villages to feed non-handloom weavers?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"There are representations from many districts including the district of the hon. Member for opening gruel centres in rural areas."

Health Centre at Kongad, Malabar.

* 364 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to abolish the Health Centre at Kongad in Palghat taluk, Malabar; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representation regarding this matter and if so, what action has been taken on it?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative."